

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A surveillance system for providing a view of a scene under surveillance, wherein said scene has a bottom and a top and a near field and a far field, said scene represented by a plurality of lines of pixels, comprising:

a digital network,

a digital camera connected to said digital network, said digital camera capturing said view of said scene under surveillance and representing said scene under surveillance by said plurality of lines of pixels, and

a computer connected to said digital network, wherein said computer applies a specific zooming scale factor to each of said horizontal line of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said horizontal line of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field resulting in any distortion in said view being acceptable reduced; wherein said lines of pixels are horizontal lines of pixels and said computer contains a computer program that applies a specific zooming scale factor to each of said horizontal lines of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said horizontal lines of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field; wherein said lines of pixels are over-sampled; and wherein said computer contains a computer program that utilizes the equation:

$$S = 1 + (Z_t - Z_b)(N-n)/N$$

where S is the rate of said over-sampling, N is the number of said plurality of lines of pixels, n is the horizontal line number counting from said bottom to said top, Z_t is the zoom ratio at said top of said scene, and Z_b is the zoom ratio at said bottom of said scene.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said camera is a surveillance camera.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said camera is a video surveillance camera.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said digital camera and said computer are interconnected via said digital network, wherein images in said near field are at said bottom, wherein images in said far field are at said top, and wherein said computer applies said specific zooming scale factor to each of said horizontal line of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said horizontal line of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field resulting in any distortion in said view being ~~acceptable~~ reduced and said images in said images in said far field are enlarged.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said camera is a still camera.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said computer is a digital computer.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said computer is a general purpose computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said computer is connected to said digital camera by said digital network, wherein images in said near field are at said bottom, wherein images in said far field are at said top, and wherein said computer applies said specific zooming scale factor to each of said horizontal line of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said horizontal line of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field resulting in any distortion in said view being ~~acceptable~~ reduced and resulting in said images in said far field being enlarged.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~9~~ 1 wherein said horizontal lines of pixels form a digital image.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~9~~ 1 wherein said horizontal lines of pixels are photographic images.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The system of claim 1 including pixels in said lines of pixels and wherein said lines of pixels are over-sampled using graded zooming in a horizontal and a vertical direction

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the number of said pixels used in said horizontal line of pixels is constant, however the rate of over-sampling of said pixels is reduced from said bottom to said top according to a scale factor wherein said horizontal line of said pixels at said top of said scene is zoomed to 2X of that of said horizontal line of said pixels at said bottom of said scene.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the number of said pixels used in said horizontal line of said pixels is constant, however the rate of over-sampling of said pixels is reduced from said bottom to said top according to a scale factor wherein said horizontal line of said pixels at said top of said scene is zoomed to 2X of that of said horizontal line of said pixels at said bottom of said scene and said bottom line is over-sampled at a rate of 2, while said top line is not over-sampled at all.

17. (Currently Amended) A surveillance system for providing a view of a scene under surveillance, wherein said scene has a bottom and a top and a near field and a far field, said scene represented by a plurality of lines of pixels, comprising:

a digital network,

a digital camera connected to said digital network, said digital camera capturing said view of said scene under surveillance and representing said scene under surveillance by said plurality of lines of pixels, and

a computer-readable medium connected to said digital network, wherein said computer applies a specific zooming scale factor to each of said lines of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said lines of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field resulting in any distortion in said view being acceptable reduced; wherein said lines of pixels are horizontal lines of pixels and said computer-readable medium is operatively connected to a computer program that applies a specific zooming scale factor to each of said horizontal lines of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said horizontal lines of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field; and wherein said computer contains a computer program that utilizes the equation:

$$S = 1 + (Z_t - Z_b)(N-n)/N$$

where S is the rate of said over-sampling, N is the number of said plurality of lines of pixels, n is the horizontal line number counting from said bottom to said top, Z_t is the zoom ratio at said top of said scene, and Z_b is the zoom ratio at said bottom of said scene.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein said horizontal lines of pixels form a digital image.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein said horizontal lines of pixels form a photographic image.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~18~~ 17 wherein said horizontal lines of pixels are over-sampled.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of surveillance of a scene under surveillance, wherein said scene has a bottom and a top and a near field and a far field, said scene represented by a plurality of lines of pixels, comprising the steps of:

providing a digital network,

using a digital camera connected to said digital network to capture said view of said scene under surveillance and to represent said scene under surveillance by said plurality of lines of pixels,

using a computer connected to said digital network for applying a specific zooming scale factor to each of said lines of pixels, and

using said computer for continuously increasing the scale factor from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field to make any distortion in said view acceptable reduced; wherein said step are performed utilizing a computer containing a computer program that applies a specific zooming scale factor to each of said lines of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said lines of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field; and wherein said computer program utilizes the equation:

$$S = 1 + (Z_t - Z_b)(N-n)/N$$

where S is the rate of over-sampling, N is the number of said plurality horizontal lines, n is the horizontal line number counting from bottom to top, Z_t is the zoom ratio at the top of said scene, and Z_b is the zoom ratio at the bottom of said scene.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, including the step of over-sampling said lines of pixels.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein pixels are contained in said lines of pixels and including the step of over-sampling said lines of pixels using graded zooming in a horizontal and a vertical direction.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the number of said pixels used in said line of pixels is constant, however the rate of over-sampling of said pixels is reduced from said bottom to said top according to a scale factor wherein said line of said pixels at said top of said scene is zoomed to 2X of that of said line of said pixels at said bottom of said scene.

30. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the number of said pixels used in said line of said pixels is constant, however the rate of over-sampling of said pixels is reduced from said bottom to said top according to a scale factor wherein said line of said pixels at said top of said scene is zoomed to 2X of that of said line of said pixels at said bottom of said scene and said bottom line is over-sampled at a rate of 2, while said top line is not over-sampled at all.

31. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein a computer contains a computer program that applies a specific zooming scale factor to each of said horizontal line of pixels and continuously increases the scale factor of said horizontal line of pixels from said bottom to said top to capture said scene in said near field, yet maintain resolution in said scene in said far field.